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Spread of plague in China.

The following information relative to the spread of plague in China—of date of April 27, 1896—has been received unofficially in this Bureau.

* * * The disease itself (the plague) is scattered everywhere in this town (Hongkong) and in the adjoining districts, and it is not sparing Europeans to the extent claimed. It seems to attack people in the most unlikely places, and some late cases by steamer into this port indicate that Amoy certainly, and Saigon probably, is infected. I wrote more than a month ago * * * that Amoy was under grave suspicion, and that cases had been, and would continue to be suppressed so as to avoid injury to trade. * * * The French mail steamers no longer carry Chinese passengers, and the Canadian Pacific people are refusing shipment of certain filthier kinds of freight (e. g. lily bulbs). Mistakes here ought to be on the safe side. * * * Almost nothing can be done, in the humble opinion of the undersigned, to prevent its spread in an infected place, if that place be a filthy one; for, after rat burrows are infected, as Yersin has pointed out, there is small chance of disinfecting them; and personal risk is a differential of personal hygiene when this stuff is knocking about. I have proved, and shall clinch the fact, that the germ may infect through unbroken muco-cutaneous surfaces, just as glanders is known to do; and the majority of people do not know enough to escape infection by such an agent. * * * Here they seem to pull together badly for some reason; but I am far from thinking that any other set of people would accomplish much in these premises. Canton does nothing and fares as well as Hongkong.

It is not declining at all, and there is, and will be, no reliable account of the number of cases that occur. About 60 cases a week come under the cognizance of the authorities. The Hongkong hotel servants developed their own epidemic. * * * Those affected all got away to Canton, but later a child of a half-caste accountant there died of it.

JAPAN.

Report on cholera in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, May 5, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the following cases of cholera have occurred since the date of my last return, April 25, viz: Osaka Fu, April 25, 1 case; Osaka Fu, April 28, 1 case, 1 death.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

MEXICO.

Sanitary report of the City of Mexico for March, 1896.

EL PASO, TEX., May 15, 1896.

SIR: It may be of interest to your office to have the latest bulletin of the board of health of the City of Mexico, of March last, which has just appeared, and of which I give a true translation, as follows:

Deaths during the month of March were 1,537 (nearly 50 per day).